

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

TEACHERS

Q. Can a teacher with a special education certificate participate in this program?

A. Tuition reimbursement dollars are available only to teachers with general education certification if they are pursuing the Mild/Moderate Special Education Certification. Teachers with special education certification enrolling in this program and pursuing certification in: Hearing Impaired, Visually Impaired, and Severe Developmental Disabilities are eligible for tuition reimbursement. Tuition reimbursement **IS NOT** available to certificated special education teachers pursuing certification in Mild/Moderate Cross Categorical.

Q. Can a teacher with a provisional special education certificate participate in this program?

A. If the teacher has a PC 1 (or higher certification) in special education, AND additional provisional certificates in special education, he/she is eligible for tuition reimbursement if pursuing certification in Hearing Impaired, Visually Impaired, or Severe Developmental Disabilities. If the teacher has general education certification and provisional certification in special education, then he/she IS eligible for tuition reimbursement in the four (4) special education critical need areas.

Q. Can a certificated teacher employed in a public school as a paraprofessional use these funds?

A. Yes, valid Missouri Certificate, employed in a Missouri public school.

Q. Is a teacher with a valid Missouri teaching certificate, employed as a fulltime substitute teacher, eligible to participate in the tuition reimbursement program?

A. Yes, valid Missouri Certificate, employed in a Missouri public school.

TEACHERS OR PARAPROFESSIONALS

Q. Can teachers or paraprofessionals be reimbursed for any special education courses leading to any teaching certificate?

A. No, only coursework leading to certification in these four (4) critical need areas are being reimbursed:

- Mild/Moderate Cross Categorical
- Visually Impaired
- Hearing Impaired
- Severe Developmental Disabilities

Q. Is a teacher or paraprofessional employed with Division of Youth Services (DYS) eligible for tuition reimbursement?

A. Yes, if the teacher has a valid Missouri teaching certificate; DYS is considered a public school district. The paraprofessional would require a letter of recommendation from the Director of Education at the DYS facility.

Q. Can a teacher employed in an Adult Basic Education (ABE) Center participate in the tuition reimbursement program?

A. Teachers at ABE Centers are considered employees of the school district in which the ABE Center is located; therefore, eligible for tuition reimbursement if they meet all the other requirements, including a recommendation from the local school district. All other rules regarding tuition reimbursement eligibility apply to these teachers.

Q. Can Clinical experience requirements at the universities and colleges vary under special circumstances?

A. A school district can request from Educator Certification that a paraprofessional be placed on an academic contract. Academic contracts with the college or university are approved by the Educator Certification section.

Q. Can a paraprofessional with two years experience in two different school districts participate in the tuition reimbursement program?

A. Yes, if the current employing school district approves and provides a letter of recommendation per the requirements listed in the program.

Q. Can teachers or paraprofessionals be reimbursed for courses taken in an out of state college or university?

A. No. Only Missouri universities/colleges with DESE approved teacher preparation programs can apply for these funds.

Q. Is a teacher or paraprofessional employed in a private or parochial school eligible for tuition reimbursement?

A. No. Missouri's Constitutional provisions regarding separation of church and state, allow funds to only be used for teachers currently employed in Missouri public schools.

OTHER

There is **NO** tuition reimbursement available for Early Childhood Special Education Certification.

Inquires regarding Loan Forgiveness Program for critical need areas should follow this link?

<http://www.dese.mo.gov/divteachqual/teachrecruit/loanforgiveness.htm>

Q. How many credits do I need for....

A. The Educator Certification Section evaluates all transcripts. The number of credits needed is also dependent on the college or university's program.

Q. What is the per credit hour reimbursement?

A. The maximum tuition rate is based on the University of Missouri's graduate rate which varies annually.

Q. Can an individual, who is serving as a teacher in a public school district on special assignment, but does not have a Missouri teaching certificate, participate in the program?

A. Yes, the individuals must receive certification within a specified period of time and may participate in the program.

Q. Are all participants in the tuition reimbursement program required to take the C-BASE before being admitted to a teacher education program?

A. Undergraduate students have to pass the C-BASE before they can be admitted into a teacher education program. However, if an individual already holds a bachelor's degree and is participating in a post-baccalaureate program, then they do not have to take the C-BASE unless their college or university requires it.